

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Donald Brent MARSHALL et al.

Serial No.: 09/750,305

Filed: December 29, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
MANAGING DEPENDENCIES IN A
COMPONENT-BASED SYSTEM

Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 9, delete "services" and insert --Service
Functionality--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 41, 43 and 47 as follows:

41. **(Amended)** A method of managing dependencies in a component-based system comprising: